

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SNAKE OF THE GENUS
ZAMENIS FROM PERSIA.

BY

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Zamenis hotsoni.

Snout moderately prominent, obtuse. Eye moderately large. Rostral broader than deep, the portion visible from above measuring one-fourth or one-third its distance from the frontal; internasals as long as or a little shorter than the præfrontals; frontal broader than the supraocular, once and a half to once and two-thirds as long as broad, longer than its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; loreal as long as deep; one præocular, not reaching the frontal, with a subocular below it; two postoculars; temporals 1 + 2; seven upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye, fourth in contact with the anterior temporal; four lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields; posterior chin-shields as long as or a little longer than the anterior, separated from each other by scales. Scales smooth, with a single apical pit, in 17 rows. Ventrals not angulate laterally, 196; anal divided; subcaudals 90. Pale fawn-colour or greyish above, each scale, except the outermost, with a black central shaft; head without markings; upper lip, præ- and postoculars, outer row of scales, and lower parts yellowish white.

Two specimens, the larger measuring about 500 millim. from Shiraz, presented by Major J. E. B. Hotson.

Distinguished from *Z. gemonensis* and *Z. dahlii* by the smaller eye; from the former by the single scale-pits, from the latter by the number of rows of scales on the body and the less slender form.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW LAND-TORTOISE
FROM NORTHERN PERSIA.

BY

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Testudo buxtoni, sp. n.

Shell moderately convex, a little more than twice as long as deep the posterior border expanded, slightly reverted and feebly serrated. Nuchal shield 3 times as long as broad; supracaudal completely divided; 11 marginals on each side; vertebrals all broader than long, the third once and a half as long as broad and as broad as the corresponding costal. Plastron large, the lobes much shorter than the

width of the bridge and nearly twice as broad as long; front lobe truncate and slightly notched in front, hind lobe openly notched behind. Suture between the gular shields a little longer than that between the humerals; pectorals forming a very narrow band in the middle, their outer border about half the length of that of the abdominals, the median suture between which is as long as its distance from the anterior border of the plastron and once and one-third its distance from the anal notch; suture between the femorals shorter than that between the anals, which equals that between the numerals; axillary shield small, inguinal large. Head moderate; beak neither hooked nor notched, feebly serrated on the sides; alveolar ridge of upper jaw short and feeble; a large cordiform præfrontal shield, with a narrow shield on each side between the eye and the rhinarium, followed by a large but somewhat smaller frontal. Fore limb with 5 claws, with 4 longitudinal series of large imbricate, rounded scutes in front; a large, claw-shaped tubercle on the back of the thigh. Shell yellowish brown, with irregular and ill-defined blackish blotches; soft parts dark brown, the scutes on the fore limb blackish at the base, the claws pale horn-colour, blackish at the base.

The single specimen, stuffed, appears to be a female. Its measurements are as follows:—

Length of shell	..	..	..	..	280 mm.
Width „ „	..	..	..	..	180
Depth „ „	..	..	..	..	130
Length of plastron	..	..	..	..	220
„ „ front lobe of plastron	..	..	..	..	60
„ „ hind „ „	..	..	..	..	65
Width of bridge	..	..	..	..	110
Length of head	..	..	..	..	48
Width „ „	..	..	..	..	37

This Tortoise was found at Manjil, between Resht and Kasuin, South Coast of the Caspian Sea, on a hill-side about 7,000—7,500 feet, by Captain P. A. Buxton, and presented to the Bombay Natural History Museum by Capt. C. M. Ingoldby.

It is very closely related to *T. ibera*, Pall., and *T. zarudnyi*, Nikolsky, both of which are inhabitants of Persia, but it is easily distinguished from them by the divided supracaudal shield and the extremely narrow pectorals.

I am not certain whether *T. zarudnyi* deserves specific-recognition; at any rate the characters pointed out by Siebenrock (1909) are worthless. A specimen from Zirkuck, E. Persia, received from the Petrograd Museum in 1899 as *T. zarudnyi* has the first vertebral shield a little broader in front than behind, the third vertebral not broader than the third costal, and the posterior margin of the carapace not more strongly serrated than in some individuals of *T. ibera*.